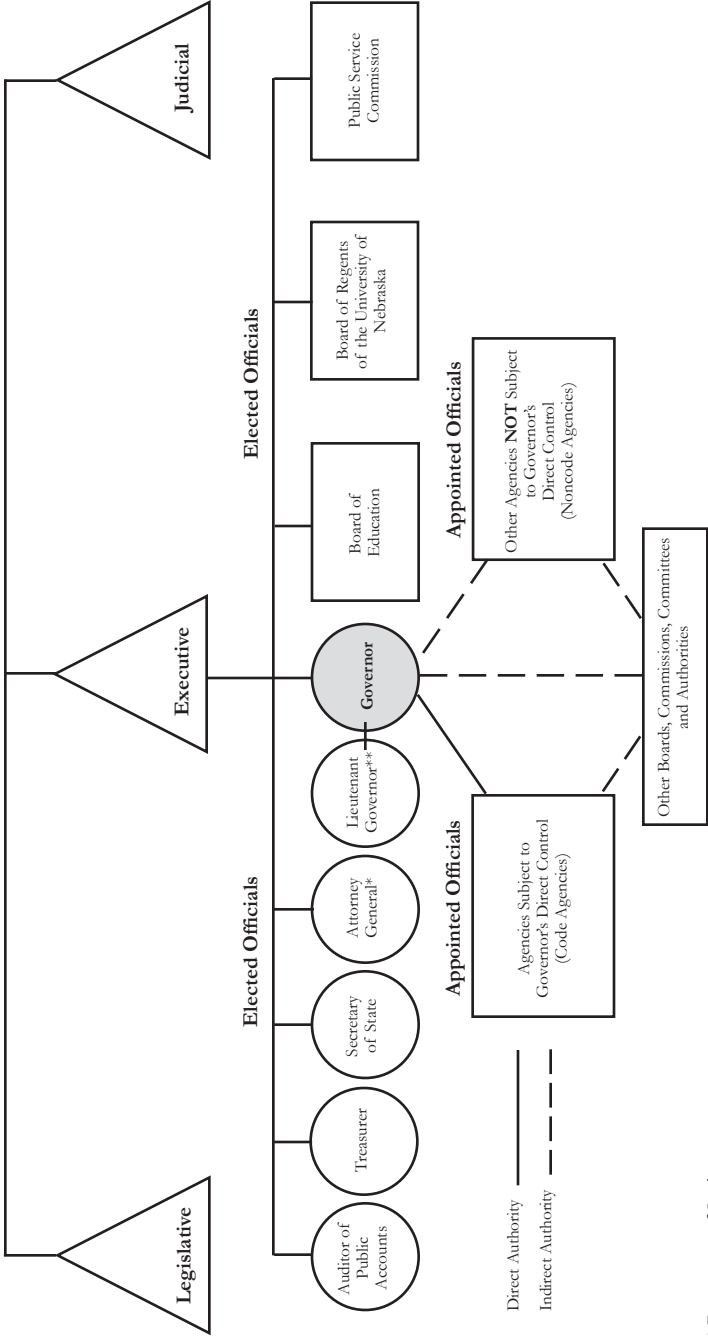




## STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Nebraska State Government Organization — Executive Branch<sup>1</sup>



\* Department of Justice.

\*\* Lieutenant governor selected by the governor as part of the election process

<sup>1</sup> Source: Governor's Policy Research Office.

# STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH<sup>1</sup>

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The executive branch of Nebraska's state government has six officers, several departments and other governmental agencies and bodies.

Executive officers authorized by the state constitution, Article IV, Section 1, are the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, treasurer and attorney general. Other elected executive officials are the members of the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and the Public Service Commission.

Executive officers are elected by popular vote to four-year terms, except the lieutenant governor, who is appointed by the governor as part of the election process. The governor and treasurer may serve only two consecutive terms; other executive officers may serve an unlimited number of terms.

The executive branch has departments, agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, authorities and other governmental bodies. Some were established in the state constitution, others were established by statute or created by executive order of the governor.

The full-fledged departments and agencies of state government are either code agencies or noncode agencies. Code agencies are subject to the governor's direct control. The directors of code agencies serve at the pleasure of the governor and are directly accountable to him or her. Noncode agencies are not subject to the governor's direct control. The offices of the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, attorney general and treasurer are considered to be noncode agencies. Both code and noncode agencies are full-fledged agencies, meaning they have their own staff, are affiliated with no other agency and appear as distinct items in the state budget.

**Editor's note:** The following descriptions of state government departments, agencies, offices and other entities were compiled with help from the Governor's Policy Research Office, the Legislature's Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Fiscal Office and the agencies and offices themselves. All statutory references in this section indicate the location in the Nebraska Constitution or the Revised Statutes of Nebraska where each governmental body was established.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Governor's Policy Research Office.

# ELECTED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

## Governor

**Offices:** State Capitol, Second Floor, Room 2316 P.O. Box 94848, Lincoln, NE 68509-4848, phone (402) 471-2244; Governor's Western Office, 4500 Ave. I, P.O. Box 1500, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-1500, phone (308) 632-1370, website — [www.governor.nebraska.gov](http://www.governor.nebraska.gov)

**Governor:** Pete Ricketts

**Statutory References:** Nebraska Constitution, Article IV, Section 1; and 84-101

**Salary:** \$105,000

**Publications:** Governor's message printed in pamphlet form when delivered and in the Legislative Journal; budget message printed in pamphlet form when delivered and in the Legislative Journal

According to Nebraska's constitution, the supreme executive power of the state is vested in the governor. It is the governor's duty "to take care that the laws be faithfully executed and the affairs of the state efficiently and economically administered."

The governor is the chief budget officer and must present the Legislature with a complete budget for all expenditures used in running the state's regular business. The Legislature may, by a three-fifths majority vote, appropriate more than the governor recommends for any given purpose.

By law, the governor also must:

- give information by message to the Legislature
- give accounts of all money received and spent
- appoint certain officers as required by the constitution and statutes and fill vacancies in state offices
- serve as commander-in-chief of the national and state guards
- sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature
- call elections to fill vacancies for members of the U.S. Congress
- certify notaries
- issue requisitions for the return of accused persons to Nebraska and other states and countries
- enforce criminal laws

The governor is the chairperson of the Board of State Canvassers and the Board of Pardons. The governor is a member of the State Records Board, Nebraska Capitol Commission, Education Commission of the States, State Board of Health, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and other groups as provided by law.

When Nebraska was a territory, the U.S. president appointed the governor to a four-year term. The territorial governor received a \$2,500 salary.

Nebraska's first state constitution, adopted in 1866, called for the people to elect a governor to a two-year term. The governor's duties were prescribed by an act approved on June 24, 1867.

In 1962, voters approved a constitutional amendment providing that the governor

would be elected to a four-year term beginning in 1966. A 1966 general election vote provided that the governor could serve only two consecutive terms. To run for governor, a person must be a resident of Nebraska for at least five years before the election and be at least 30 years old.

The governor's salary was \$1,000 until raised by the constitution of 1875 to \$2,500. The constitution of 1920 fixed the governor's salary at \$7,500 until otherwise provided by law. The 1933 Legislature reduced the salaries of the governor and certain constitutional officers, but the Nebraska Supreme Court declared the act unconstitutional (129 Neb. 669-699). In 1947, the Legislature increased the governor's salary to \$10,000, and the 1951 Legislature raised the salary to \$11,000 effective in 1957. The delayed increase was because Article IV, Section 25 of the state constitution provided that no constitutional officer salary could be changed more than once in eight years. In 1956, a general election vote repealed this salary restriction. Lawmakers boosted the salary to \$14,000 in 1963. Since then, senators have gradually increased the salary to its current level of \$105,000.

From 1889 to 1899, the state paid the rent on a residence for the governor, except during the incumbency of Gov. Lorenzo Crounse (1893-95), who refused to accept the additional payments. In 1899, the Legislature spent \$25,000 to buy and furnish an executive mansion. Of this sum, \$21,385.30 was spent. The 1945 Legislature approved a new Georgian Colonial-style mansion to be built at a cost of \$200,000 and completed in early 1958.

By 1997, 40 years of use had taken a toll on the mansion. First Lady Diane Nelson led a fund-raising effort to restore the governor's mansion to its original condition. After renovations were completed, the mansion was reopened to the public in August 1998.

Gov. Mike Johanns and First Lady Stephanie Johanns launched a landscaping renewal project for the governor's residence grounds in November 2001. Private donations paid for most of the project. The state allocated money to make the mansion wheelchair accessible and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

First Lady Sally Ganem established the Friends of the Governors Residence in 2006, which raised funds for technology modernization projects including a virtual tour of the residence.

In August 2007, Gov. Dave Heineman and First Lady Ganem celebrated the 50th anniversary of the governor's residence by hosting a week-long celebration for Nebraskans. The anniversary was commemorated with the release of "Inspired Recipes from Nebraska," featuring favorite recipes from governors, senators and other Nebraska leaders.

In 2008, the residence was added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

## Nebraska Governor, 2015



### PETE RICKETTS

**Governor's Residence Address:** Governor's Residence, 1425 H St., Lincoln, NE 68508

**Office Address:** State Capitol, Second Floor, Room 2316, P.O. Box 94848, Lincoln, NE 68509-4848, phone (402) 471-2244

**Elected Governor:** 2014

**Political Party:** Republican

**Biography:** Born Aug. 19, 1964, in Nebraska City. Graduate of Westside High School, 1982; University of Chicago (B.A.), 1986 and (M.B.A.) 1991. Married Susanne Shore, May 17, 1997; three children: Roscoe, Margot and Eleanor. Former: founder, Drakon, LLC; senior vice president, president and chief operating officer, Ameritrade; sales representative, Woodward Clyde Consultants; customer service representative, Union Pacific. **Member:** director, Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts; director, Christian Urban Education Foundation; director, Children's Scholarship Fund Foundation; director, Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation;

director, Chicago Cubs; board of advisors, Opportunity Education Foundation; Archbishop's Committee for Development; Knights of Columbus; Knight of the Holy Sepulchre; St. Margaret Mary's Church. **Former member:** director, Bellevue University (treasurer, 2012-13); national committeeman, Republican National Committee, 2007-12; director, TD Ameritrade, 1999-2006, 2007-14; trustee, American Enterprise Institute, 2007-13; Children's Scholarship Fund, 2007-12 (chair 2009-10); board, Community Health Charities, 2007-11.

# Nebraska Governors, 1854-2015

## Territorial

|                            |                        |                          |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Francis Burt.....          | 1854 <sup>1</sup>      | J. Sterling Morton.....  | 1858-1859 <sup>6</sup> |
| Thomas B. Cuming.....      | 1854-1855 <sup>2</sup> |                          | 1861 <sup>8</sup>      |
|                            | 1857-1858 <sup>4</sup> | Samuel W. Black.....     | 1859-1861 <sup>7</sup> |
| Mark W. Izard.....         | 1855-1857 <sup>3</sup> | Algernon S. Paddock..... | 1861 <sup>9</sup>      |
| William A. Richardson..... | 1858 <sup>5</sup>      | Alvin Saunders.....      | 1861-1867              |

## State

|                                      |                         |                               |                              |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| David Butler (R) <sup>10</sup> ..... | 1867-1871 <sup>11</sup> | Charles W. Bryan (D).....     | 1923-1925                    |
| William H. James (R).....            | 1871-1873 <sup>12</sup> |                               | 1931-1935                    |
| Robert W. Furnas (R).....            | 1873-1875               | Adam McMullen (R).....        | 1925-1929                    |
| Silas Garber (R).....                | 1875-1879               | Arthur J. Weaver (R).....     | 1929-1931                    |
| Albinus Nance (R).....               | 1879-1883               | Robert Leroy Cochran (D)..... | 1935-1941                    |
| James W. Daves (R).....              | 1883-1887               | Dwight Griswold (R).....      | 1941-1947                    |
| John M. Thayer (R).....              | 1887-1891               | Val Peterson (R).....         | 1947-1953                    |
|                                      | 1891-1892 <sup>13</sup> | Robert B. Crosby (R).....     | 1953-1955                    |
| James E. Boyd (D).....               | 1891                    | Victor E. Anderson (R).....   | 1955-1959                    |
|                                      | 1892-1893 <sup>14</sup> | Ralph G. Brooks (D).....      | 1959-1960 <sup>17</sup>      |
| Lorenzo Crounse (R).....             | 1893-1895               | Dwight W. Burney (R).....     | 1960-1961 <sup>18</sup>      |
| Silas A. Holcomb (F).....            | 1895-1899               | Frank B. Morrison (D).....    | 1961-1967                    |
| William A. Poynter (F).....          | 1899-1901               | Norbert T. Tiemann (R).....   | 1967-1971                    |
| Charles H. Dietrich (R).....         | 1901 <sup>15</sup>      | J. James Exon (D).....        | 1971-1979                    |
| Ezra P. Savage (R).....              | 1901-1903 <sup>16</sup> | Charles Thone (R).....        | 1979-1983                    |
| John H. Mickey (R).....              | 1903-1907               | J. Robert Kerrey (D).....     | 1983-1987                    |
| George L. Sheldon (R).....           | 1907-1909               | Kay A. Orr (R).....           | 1987-1991                    |
| Ashton C. Shallenberger (D).....     | 1909-1911               | E. Benjamin Nelson (D).....   | 1991-1999                    |
| Chester H. Aldrich (R).....          | 1911-1913               | Mike Johanns (R).....         | 1999-2005 <sup>19</sup>      |
| John H. Morehead (D).....            | 1913-1917               | David Heineman (R).....       | 2005-20 <sup>20</sup> , 2015 |
| Keith Neville (D).....               | 1917-1919               | Pete Ricketts (R).....        | 2015-                        |
| Samuel R. McKelvie (R).....          | 1919-1923               |                               |                              |

<sup>1</sup> Died Oct. 18, 1854.

<sup>2</sup> Acting governor upon the death of Gov. Burt.

<sup>3</sup> Resigned Oct. 25, 1857.

<sup>4</sup> Acting governor upon resignation of Gov. Izard.

<sup>5</sup> Resigned Dec. 5, 1858.

<sup>6</sup> Acting governor upon resignation of Gov. Richardson.

<sup>7</sup> Resigned Feb. 24, 1861.

<sup>8</sup> Acting governor upon resignation of Gov. Black.

<sup>9</sup> Acting governor.

<sup>10</sup> Political affiliation: R=Republican; D=Democrat; F=Fusion (composed of Populists and Democrats).

<sup>11</sup> Elected in 1866, but did not take office until after Nebraska became a state. Impeached.

<sup>12</sup> Acting governor until inauguration of Gov. Furnas.

<sup>13</sup> In office 1887 to Jan. 15, 1891; May 5, 1891, to Feb. 8, 1892.

<sup>14</sup> Election contested by Gov. John M. Thayer. Suit delayed final seating of Gov. Boyd. In office Jan. 15, 1891, to May 5, 1891; Feb. 8, 1892, to 1893.

<sup>15</sup> In office from Jan. 3, 1901, to May 1, 1901. Resigned.

<sup>16</sup> Acting governor upon resignation of Gov. Dietrich.

<sup>17</sup> Died Sept. 9, 1960.

<sup>18</sup> Acting governor from Sept. 9, 1960, to Jan. 5, 1961.

<sup>19</sup> Resigned Jan. 21, 2005, to become the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

<sup>20</sup> Became governor upon resignation of Gov. Mike Johanns. Elected in 2006.

*Governor's Policy Research Office*

**Office:** Room 1319, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94601, Lincoln, NE 68509-4601, phone (402) 471-2414, fax (402) 471-2528

**Director:** Lauren L. Kintner

The Governor's Policy Research Office is a division of the governor's office. The director is a cabinet level position and serves at the governor's pleasure.

**Statutory Reference:** 84-133

The Governor's Policy Research Office, created by the 1979 Legislature, replaced the Office of Planning and Programming, created in 1969. The office helps the governor develop and review state government policy. When needed, the office coordinates and directs multiagency programs or special programs not fitting any particular agency. The office enhances the governor's executive capability.

A small professional staff assist the governor to analyze policy options, promote executive branch cooperation and efficiency, review proposed rules and regulations, respond to public inquiries and research state and national trends. The office monitors all federal legislation that impacts state government and serves as the governor's representative to the National Governors Association. The office monitors legislative bills, coordinates legislative activities of code agencies and coordinates the development and promotion of the governor's legislative agenda.

The agency is organized on a functional basis. Advisors in assigned policy areas serve as liaisons for the governor with state and federal agencies, local political subdivisions, constituents and other public and private entities. Advisors attend legislative briefings and hearings, meetings with state senators, legislative staff, agencies and registered lobbyists representing the governor and the interests of the state. Advisors also represent the governor on boards and commissions, councils and committees when the governor is unable to designate a representative.



## Lieutenant Governor

**Office:** Room 2315, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94863, Lincoln, NE 68509-4863, phone (402) 471-2256, email address — [mike.foley@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.foley@nebraska.gov), website — [www.ltgov.ne.gov](http://www.ltgov.ne.gov)

**Lieutenant Governor:** Mike Foley

**Statutory Reference:** Nebraska Constitution, Article IV, Section 1

**Salary:** \$75,000

The Nebraska Constitution of 1875 made the first provision for a lieutenant governor. By law, the lieutenant governor:

- presides over the Legislature
- acts as governor when the governor is out of the state or incapacitated
- becomes governor in case of a vacancy or when the governor is permanently incapacitated
- performs duties assigned by the governor

Nebraska's lieutenant governor also serves as director of homeland security for the state, chairman of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission and chairman of the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group.

Before 1971, the office of lieutenant governor was part-time except during the biennial legislative session. When the Legislature began meeting annually, the office became full-time.

In 1962, voters approved a constitutional amendment providing that the lieutenant governor would be elected to a four-year term beginning in 1966. Before then, lieutenant governors were elected to two-year terms. From 1974 until 2002, the governor and lieutenant governor, by constitutional amendment, secured nominations at the primary election in their respective parties, then ran in the general election on one ticket from the same political party. Beginning in 2002, gubernatorial candidates choose their nominee for lieutenant governor after winning their respective parties' primary elections.

Nebraska's constitution of 1875 provided that the lieutenant governor receive twice the compensation of a state senator. The lieutenant governor's salary advanced from \$6 per day during the session of the 1875 Legislature to \$7,500 per year in 1969. The lieutenant governor's salary was increased to \$25,000 per year in 1975, to \$32,000 in 1979, to \$40,000 in 1987, to \$47,000 in 1991, to \$60,000 in 2003 and to \$75,000 in 2006.

## Nebraska Lieutenant Governor, 2015



### MIKE FOLEY

**Home Address:** 6410 S. 41st St. Court, Lincoln, NE 68516

**Office Address:** Room 2315, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94863, Lincoln, NE 68509-4863, phone (402) 471-2256, email address — [mike.foley@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.foley@nebraska.gov)

**Elected Lieutenant Governor:** 2014

**Political Party:** Republican

**Biography:** Born April 5, 1954, in Rochester, N.Y. Graduate of Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, N.Y., 1972; State University of New York at Brockport (B.S.), 1976; Michigan State University (M.B.A.), 1978. Married Susan Seiker, Aug. 3, 1990; six children: Laura, Matthew, Marie, Elizabeth, Peter and Andrew. Registered appraiser. Former: state senator, 2000-2006; corporate planning analyst, Nebraska Public Power District; director of financial analysis, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, 1979-1997; consultant, Kirschner Association, 1978-79; summer positions with U.S. Congressman Michael Harrington, U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. International Trade Commission; Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, Washington, D.C., 1984. **Member:** St. Peter's Catholic Church; Legion of Mary.

## Nebraska Lieutenant Governors, 1877-2015

|                                         |                        |                              |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Othman A. Abbott (R) <sup>1</sup> ..... | 1877-1879              | William E. Johnson (R) ..... | 1939-1943                              |
| Edmund C. Carns (R) .....               | 1879-1883              | Roy W. Johnson (R) .....     | 1943-1947                              |
| A. W. Agee (R) .....                    | 1883-1885              | Robert B. Crosby (R) .....   | 1947-1949                              |
| H. H. Shedd (R) .....                   | 1885-1889              | Charles J. Warner (R) .....  | 1949-1955 <sup>4</sup>                 |
| George D. Meiklejohn (R) .....          | 1889-1891              | Dwight W. Burney (R) .....   | 1957-1965                              |
| Thomas J. Majors (R) .....              | 1891-1895              | Philip C. Sorensen (D) ..... | 1965-1967                              |
| Robert E. Moore (R) .....               | 1895-1897              | John E. Everroad (R) .....   | 1967-1971                              |
| James E. Harris (F) .....               | 1897-1899              | Frank Marsh (R) .....        | 1971-1975                              |
| E. A. Gilbert (F) .....                 | 1899-1901              | Gerald T. Whelan (D) .....   | 1975-1979                              |
| Ezra P. Savage (R) .....                | 1901-1903              | Roland A. Luedtke (R) .....  | 1979-1983                              |
| Edmund G. McGilton (R) .....            | 1903-1907              | Donald F. McGinley (D) ..... | 1983-1987                              |
| M. R. Hopewell (R) .....                | 1907-1911 <sup>2</sup> | William E. Nichol (R) .....  | 1987-1991                              |
| Samuel R. McKelvie (R) .....            | 1913-1915              | Maxine B. Moul (D) .....     | 1991-1993 <sup>5</sup>                 |
| James Pearson (D) .....                 | 1915-1917              | Kim M. Robak (D) .....       | 1993-1999 <sup>6</sup>                 |
| Edgar Howard (D) .....                  | 1917-1919              | David I. Maurstad (R) .....  | 1999-2001 <sup>7</sup>                 |
| Pelham A. Barrows (R) .....             | 1919-1923              | David Heineman (R) .....     | 2001 <sup>8</sup> -2005 <sup>9</sup>   |
| Fred G. Johnson (R) .....               | 1923-1925              | Richard Sheehy (R) .....     | 2005 <sup>10</sup> -2013 <sup>11</sup> |
| George A. Williams (R) .....            | 1925-1931              | Lavon Heidemann (R) .....    | 2013 <sup>12</sup> -2014 <sup>13</sup> |
| Theodore Metcalfe (R) .....             | 1931-1933              | John E. Nelson (R) .....     | 2014 <sup>14</sup> -2015               |
| Walter H. Jurgensen (D) .....           | 1933-1938              | Mike Foley (R) .....         | 2015-                                  |
| Nate M. Parsons (D) .....               | 1938-1939 <sup>3</sup> |                              |                                        |

<sup>1</sup> Political affiliation: R=Republican; D=Democrat; F=Fusion (composed of Populists and Democrats).

<sup>2</sup> Died May 2, 1911.

<sup>3</sup> Elected to fill unexpired term. In office Nov. 8, 1938, to Jan. 5, 1939.

<sup>4</sup> Died Sept. 24, 1955.

<sup>5</sup> Resigned.

<sup>6</sup> Appointed to finish term of Maxine Moul, who resigned. Elected in 1994.

<sup>7</sup> Resigned to become a regional director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Appointed to finish term of David I. Maurstad, who resigned.

<sup>9</sup> Resigned to become governor.

<sup>10</sup> Appointed Jan. 24, 2005, to finish term of David Heineman, who resigned. Elected in 2006.

<sup>11</sup> Resigned Feb. 2, 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Appointed Feb. 13, 2013, to finish term of Richard Sheehy, who resigned.

<sup>13</sup> Resigned Sept. 9, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Appointed Sept. 29, 2014, to finish term of Lavon Heidemann, who resigned.

## Secretary of State

**Office:** Room 2300, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94608, Lincoln, NE 68509-4608, phone (402) 471-2554, fax (402) 471-3237, email address — [sosinfo@nebraska.gov](mailto:sosinfo@nebraska.gov), website — [www.sos.ne.gov](http://www.sos.ne.gov)

**Secretary of State:** John A. Gale

**Statutory References:** Nebraska Constitution, Article IV, Section 1; and 84-502

**Salary:** \$85,000

**Publications:** Nebraska Constitution, Canvassing Board Report, State Election Law Manual

The Office of the Secretary of State dates to 1854, when the first territorial secretary was appointed. In 1964, voters approved a constitutional amendment changing the term of the secretary of state from two years to four years beginning with the 1966 general election.

Since its beginning, the office has functioned as a filing office and repository of official state records. Over time, the office has acquired numerous other duties. The office oversees the following areas: elections, business registry services, occupational licensing, state agency rules and regulations, records management and international relations.

The secretary of state serves as the state's chief election officer. Working with election officials in the state's 93 counties, the office's Elections Division oversees election law, the conduct of elections in the state, election tabulation equipment and the state voter registration system. The division accepts candidate filings and tabulates results for statewide, legislative, judicial retention and certain district elections. The division oversees filings for statewide initiative and referendum petitions.

The secretary of state's office actively promotes election law reform, voter education and voter turnout. The office reaches over 100,000 students in every statewide election year through various programs designed to teach the practices of good citizenship, such as voting and community service. The office sponsors Nebraska Student Vote, Honor a Veteran and Youth Election Services. The office also promotes voter registration and voting at Nebraska college campuses and participates in Cornhusker Boys State.

The office's Business Services Division provides several important functions for businesses in the state. Registrations are recorded for corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, trade names and trademarks. The division is the repository of Uniform Commercial Code, agriculture-related and other security interest filings. The division regulates notary public commissions and handles apostilles and authentications (documents going to other countries). The office also has launched 35 online services to ease access to record keeping and banking for entities doing business in Nebraska.

The office's Licensing Division protects the public interest by licensing or registering several occupations. The division oversees collection agencies, debt management agencies, credit services organizations, private detectives, truth and deception examiners, athlete agents and nonrecourse civil litigation funding companies.

The office maintains the Nebraska Administrative Code. The office is responsible for the filing and certification of state agency rules and regulations, and making them available for public inspection.

The secretary of state serves as the state records administrator. The office's Records Management Division assists state and local government agencies in managing the creation, use, storage and disposal of records in an efficient and economical manner. The division provides services and does consulting for government agencies. Services include the storage of state records and the conversion of records into different formats for storage. The division facilitates and publishes the creation and update of records retention and disposition schedules for all Nebraska government entities.

The secretary of state also serves as the state's chief protocol officer for international relations. In that role, the secretary serves as a goodwill ambassador and promotes commerce, educational studies and cultural exchanges between Nebraska and the world. The office has hosted five diplomatic conferences where diplomats have come to Nebraska to learn about the state, and two foreign affairs symposiums to discuss Nebraska trade practices. The office also cooperates with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development on additional trade and protocol events.

The secretary of state is the official keeper of the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska, affixing it to official government documents to validate them. The office is the repository for all public acts, laws and resolutions passed by the Legislature, and bonds and oaths of state elected and appointed officers.

The secretary of state also serves in various capacities on numerous state boards and commissions:

- chairperson, State Real Estate Commission
- chairperson, State Records Board<sup>2</sup>
- chairperson, Nebraska Collection Agency Licensing Board<sup>3</sup>
- secretary, State Board of Pardons
- secretary, State Board of Canvassers
- member, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission

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<sup>2</sup>See Pages 424-425 for details on the State Records Board.

<sup>3</sup>See Page 424 for details on the Nebraska Collection Agency Licensing Board.

## Nebraska Secretary of State, 2015



### JOHN A. GALE

**Home Address:** 925 S. 51st St., Lincoln, NE 68510

**Office Address:** Room 2300, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94608, Lincoln, NE 68509-4608, phone (402) 471-1572

**Appointed Secretary of State:** Dec. 18, 2000; elected 2002; re-elected 2006, 2010 and 2014

**Political Party:** Republican

**Biography:** Born Oct. 23, 1940. Graduate of Omaha North High School; Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. (B.A. in government and international relations), 1962; University of Chicago Law School (J.D.), 1965. Married Carol, May 25, 1991; three children: David, Elaine and Steven; five grandchildren. Former: practicing attorney, North Platte, 1971-2000; assistant U.S. attorney, Omaha and Lincoln, 1970-71; legislative aid, U.S. Senator Roman Hruska, 1968-1970; Northern Natural Gas Co. Law Department, Omaha, 1965-68. **Member:** board, Boy's State of Nebraska; standards board, U.S. Election Assistance Commission; board, National Association of Secretaries of State; sponsor, annual Nebraska statehood birthday parties;

co-sponsor, annual Capitol Forum on America's Future; sponsor, Nebraska Student Vote; co-sponsor, Youth Election Service. **Former member:** board, NebraskaLAND Foundation; Nebraska Election Reform Task Force (chairman); Vote Nebraska Initiative Task Force (chairman); Nebraska Quarter Design Committee (chairman); Technical Guidelines Development Committee, U.S. Election Assistance Commission; chairman, Nebraska Republican Party (1986); assistant chairman, Nebraska Republican Party (1972-74); general counsel, Nebraska Republican Party (1975); Nebraska State Advisory Committee, U.S. Civil Rights Commission (chairman, 1972-75); North Platte Jaycees; North Platte Chamber of Commerce; North Platte United Way; Tri-Trails Boy Scouts, AYSO Soccer; Great Plains Regional Medical Center; Sunrise Rotary Club (president); Lincoln County Bar Association (president); 11th Judicial District Bar Association (president); Rotary District 5630 (lieutenant governor).

# Nebraska Territorial Secretaries and Secretaries of State, 1854-2015

## Territorial

|                       |                        |                          |           |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Thomas B. Cuming..... | 1854-1858 <sup>1</sup> | J. Sterling Morton.....  | 1858-1861 |
| John B. Motley.....   | 1858 <sup>2</sup>      | Algernon S. Paddock..... | 1861-1867 |

## State

|                                          |                        |                              |                        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Thomas P. Kennard (R) <sup>3</sup> ..... | 1867-1871 <sup>4</sup> | George C. Junkin (R) .....   | 1907-1911              |
| William H. James (R) .....               | 1871-1873              | Addison Wait (R).....        | 1911-1915              |
| John J. Gosper (R).....                  | 1873-1875              | Charles W. Pool (D).....     | 1915-1919              |
| Bruno Tzschuck (R).....                  | 1875-1879              |                              | 1923-1927              |
| S. J. Alexander (R) .....                | 1879-1883              | Darius M. Amsberry (R) ..... | 1919-1923              |
| Edward P. Roggen (R).....                | 1883-1887              | Frank Marsh (R) .....        | 1927-1933              |
| Gilbert L. Laws (R) .....                | 1887-1889 <sup>5</sup> |                              | 1941-1951 <sup>7</sup> |
| Benjamin R. Cowdery (R).....             | 1889-1891 <sup>6</sup> | Harry R. Swanson (D).....    | 1933-1941              |
| John C. Allen (R) .....                  | 1891-1895              | James S. Pittenger (R) ..... | 1951-1953 <sup>8</sup> |
| Joel A. Piper (R) .....                  | 1895-1897              | Frank Marsh (R) .....        | 1953-1971              |
| William F. Porter (F).....               | 1897-1901              | Allen J. Beermann (R).....   | 1971-1995              |
| George W. Marsh (R).....                 | 1901-1905              | Scott Moore (R).....         | 1995-2000              |
| A. Galusha (R) .....                     | 1905-1907              | John A. Gale, (R) .....      | 2000 <sup>9</sup> -    |

<sup>1</sup> Died March 23, 1858.

<sup>2</sup> Acting secretary.

<sup>3</sup> Political affiliation: R=Republican; D=Democrat; F=Fusion (composed of Populists and Democrats).

<sup>4</sup> Term of office began Feb. 21, 1867.

<sup>5</sup> Resigned Nov. 20, 1889, to fill unexpired term in Congress caused by the death of James Laird.

<sup>6</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy.

<sup>7</sup> Died Feb. 9, 1951.

<sup>8</sup> Appointed Feb. 10, 1951, to fill vacancy.

<sup>9</sup> Appointed Dec. 18, 2000, to fill vacancy.

*Nebraska Collection Agency Licensing Board*

**Office:** Licensing Division, Office of the Secretary of State, Room 1305, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94608, Lincoln, NE 68509, phone (402) 471-8606

**Licensing Director:** David L. Wilson, Jr.

**Statutory Reference:** 45-603

The Collection Agency Licensing Board reviews applications for collection agency licenses. Any person, firm, corporation or association conducting business as a collection agency must be licensed and obtain a bond.

The board is responsible for the administration of the Collection Agency Licensing Act. The board investigates the qualifications of each applicant and, based on the investigation, may issue or refuse to issue a license.

The secretary of state is the chairperson of the board. The governor appoints four members. Three members, one from each of the state's congressional districts, are licensees engaged in the collection business. The remaining member is appointed at large as a representative of the public and is not a licensee. The terms of office are four years. Members are reimbursed for their actual expenses. All expenses, salaries and expenditures are paid out of the Nebraska Collection Agency Cash Fund.

| Member                                 | Represents               | Term Expires  |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Shiela Cain, Lincoln .....             | 1st District .....       | Sept. 9, 2015 |
| Greg Hogenmiller, Omaha .....          | 2nd District .....       | Sept. 9, 2017 |
| Steve Lindgren, Lincoln .....          | Public At Large .....    | Sept. 9, 2015 |
| Micheal Morledge, Grand Island .....   | 3rd District .....       | Sept. 9, 2017 |
| John A. Gale, Lincoln (Chairman) ..... | Secretary of State ..... | Nonexpiring   |

*State Records Board*

**Office:** Records Management Division, Office of the Secretary of State, 440 S. Eighth St., Suite 210, Lincoln, NE 68508, phone (402) 471-2745

**Executive Director:** Cathy Danahy

**Statutory Reference:** 84-1204

The State Records Board provides electronic access to state government records, information and services through an Internet portal. The board has authority to enter into agreements regarding the management of the portal, provide oversight of the portal manager and set reasonable fees for electronic access. The board also advises and assists the secretary of state, who serves as the state records administrator, in the performance of his or her duties under the Records Management Act.

The secretary of state serves as chairperson of the 12-member State Records Board. Other state officials on the board include the governor, attorney general, auditor of public accounts, state treasurer and director of administrative services, or their designees. The board also includes six members appointed by the governor, one from each of the following constituencies: banking, insurance, law, libraries, news media and the general public.



| <b>Member</b>                      | <b>Represents</b>                                         | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Buescher, Omaha .....        | Law .....                                                 | July 16, 2015       |
| Brenda Ealey, Lincoln .....        | Libraries .....                                           | July 16, 2017       |
| Scott Keene, Lincoln .....         | Insurance .....                                           | July 16, 2016       |
| Mike Konz, Kearney .....           | News Media .....                                          | July 16, 2016       |
| Greg Osborn, Lincoln .....         | General Public .....                                      | July 16, 2015       |
| Crystal Wichita, Lincoln .....     | Banking Industry .....                                    | July 16, 2017       |
| Larry Bare, Lincoln .....          | Acting Director of Administrative Services .....          | Nonexpiring         |
| John A. Gale, Lincoln .....        | State Records Administrator<br>(Secretary of State) ..... | Nonexpiring         |
| Charlie Janssen, Fremont .....     | Auditor of Public Accounts .....                          | Nonexpiring         |
| Douglas J. Peterson, Lincoln ..... | Attorney General .....                                    | Nonexpiring         |
| Pete Ricketts, Lincoln/Omaha ..... | Governor .....                                            | Nonexpiring         |
| Don Stenberg, Lincoln .....        | State Treasurer .....                                     | Nonexpiring         |

## State Treasurer

**Office:** Room 2005, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94788, Lincoln, NE 68509-4788, phone (402) 471-2455, website — [www.treasurer.org](http://www.treasurer.org)

**State Treasurer:** Don Stenberg

**Statutory References:** Nebraska Constitution, Article IV, Section 1; 84-601

**Salary:** \$85,000

**Publications:** Biennial report; monthly statement

Duties of the state treasurer include:

- receiving and keeping money of the state not expressly required to be received and kept by some other state official
- disbursing public money upon warrants drawn upon the state treasury according to law, and not otherwise
- keeping a true and comprehensive account of money received and disbursed
- keeping a just account with each fund, and each head of appropriation made by law, and the warrants drawn against them
- reporting to the Legislature within 10 days after the beginning of each regular session a detailed statement of the condition of the state treasury and its operations for the preceding fiscal year
- giving written information to the Legislature, whenever required, upon any subject connected with the treasury or duties of the treasurer's office
- recording purchases made by the state investment officer
- safekeeping securities purchased for the trust funds and state agencies
- accounting and paying for money received by him or her as treasurer to the successor in office, and delivery of books and records of the office to him or her

The state treasurer is required to deposit, and at all times keep on deposit for safekeeping, the money in his or her hands belonging to the several current funds in the state treasury in state or national banks or in banks doing business in Nebraska of approved standing and responsibility.

The state treasurer administers the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act. Under the act, unclaimed funds such as inactive bank accounts, uncashed checks, stock shares, insurance proceeds and utility deposits are remitted to the state treasurer's office. The state treasurer then tries to locate the owners and return the funds owed to them. Funds that are not returned to claimants are deposited in the Permanent School Fund, and the interest from this fund is distributed to Nebraska school districts.

The state treasurer is responsible for administering the Nebraska College Savings Program, which began operations on Jan. 1, 2001, and the Nebraska Long-Term Care Savings Program.

The state of Nebraska has implemented a statewide system for receipt, distribution and disbursement of child support. The state treasurer is responsible for receipting and disbursing child support payments. The Health and Human Services System is responsible for providing the state treasurer with distribution instructions for the disbursement of child support.

The state treasurer is a member of the Board of State Canvassers, the State Investment Council, the Quality Jobs Act Board and the State Records Board.

By the Organic Act of 1854, the governor and secretary of Nebraska Territory expended the funds appropriated by the U.S. government. An act of the territorial assembly, approved on March 16, 1855, created the treasurer's office. The state constitutions of 1866 and 1875 provided for this office.

In 1964, voters approved a constitutional amendment changing the term of the state treasurer from two years to four years starting with the 1966 general election. No state treasurer may serve more than two consecutive terms.

## Nebraska State Treasurer, 2015



### DON STENBERG

**Office Address:** Room 2005, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94788, Lincoln, NE 68509-4788, phone (402) 471-2455, email address — [nst.info@nebraska.gov](mailto:nst.info@nebraska.gov)

**Elected State Treasurer:** 2010; re-elected 2014

**Political Party:** Republican

**Biography:** Born Sept. 30, 1948, in David City. Graduate of Tekamah High School, 1966; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1970; Harvard Law School (J.D., cum laude), 1974; Harvard Business School (MBA), 1974. Married Sue Hoegemeyer in 1971; four children. Former: Nebraska Attorney General; director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services; director, Governor's Policy Research Office; private practice attorney. **Member:** Phi Beta Kappa; policy advisory board, Washington Legal Foundation. **Former member:** Federalism working group, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. **Honors and awards:** 2014 Presidential Distinguished Service Award, National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators; 2000 Government Official of the Year, Nebraska Fertilizer

and Ag-Chemical Institute; 1999 Public Policy Award, Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime; 1997 Business Champion Award, Lincoln Independent Business Association.

## Nebraska State Treasurers, 1855-2015

### Territorial

|                         |                   |                       |           |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Benjamin P. Rankin..... | 1855 <sup>1</sup> | Augustus Kountze..... | 1861-1867 |
| William W. Wyman.....   | 1855-1861         |                       |           |

### State

|                                         |                        |                                |                         |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Augustus Kountze (R) <sup>2</sup> ..... | 1867-1869 <sup>3</sup> | Walter H. Jensen (D).....      | 1937-1939               |
| James Sweet (R) .....                   | 1869-1871              | John Havekost (D) .....        | 1939-1941 <sup>7</sup>  |
| Henry A. Koenig (R) .....               | 1871-1875              | L. B. Johnson (R).....         | 1941-1943               |
| J. C. McBride (R) .....                 | 1875-1879              | Carl G. Swanson (R) .....      | 1943-1945 <sup>8</sup>  |
| George M. Bartlett (R) .....            | 1879-1883              | Edward Gillette (R).....       | 1946-1951 <sup>9</sup>  |
| Phelps D. Sturdevant (F) .....          | 1883-1885              | Frank B. Heintze (R).....      | 1951-1955               |
| Charles H. Willard (R).....             | 1885-1889              | Ralph W. Hill (R) .....        | 1955-1958 <sup>10</sup> |
| John E. Hill (R).....                   | 1889-1893              | Bertha I. Hill (R).....        | 1958-1959 <sup>11</sup> |
| Joseph S. Bartley (R) .....             | 1893-1897              | Richard R. Larsen (D) .....    | 1959-1961               |
| John B. Meserve (F).....                | 1897-1901              | Clarence L.E. Swanson (R)..... | 1961-1964 <sup>12</sup> |
| William Stuefer (R).....                | 1901-1903              | P. Merle Humphries (R) .....   | 1964-1965 <sup>13</sup> |
| Peter Mortensen (R) .....               | 1903-1907              | Fred Sorensen (D).....         | 1965-1967               |
| L. G. Brian (R) .....                   | 1907-1911              | Wayne R. Swanson (R) .....     | 1967-1975               |
| Walter A. George (R).....               | 1911-1915              | Frank Marsh (R) .....          | 1975-1981 <sup>14</sup> |
| George E. Hall (D) .....                | 1915-1919              |                                | 1987-1991               |
|                                         | 1933-1936 <sup>4</sup> | Kay A. Orr (R).....            | 1981-1987 <sup>15</sup> |
| Daniel B. Cropsey (R).....              | 1919-1923              | Dawn E. Rockey (D) .....       | 1991-1995               |
| Charles D. Robinson (R) .....           | 1923-1927              | David Heineman (R).....        | 1995-2001 <sup>16</sup> |
| W. M. Stebbins (R) .....                | 1927-1931              | Lorelee Hunt Byrd (R) .....    | 2001-2004 <sup>17</sup> |
| Truman W. Bass (R).....                 | 1931-1933              | Ron Ross (R).....              | 2004-2007 <sup>18</sup> |
|                                         | 1939 <sup>6</sup>      | Shane Osborn (R) .....         | 2007-2011               |
| H. J. Murray (D) .....                  | 1936-1937 <sup>5</sup> | Don Stenberg (R).....          | 2011-                   |

<sup>1</sup> Appointed by governor to serve until 1855 general election.

<sup>2</sup> Political affiliation: R=Republican; D=Democrat; F=Fusion. Sturdevant represented a fusion of Anti-Monopolists and Democrats; Meserve represented a fusion of Populists and Democrats.

<sup>3</sup> Term of office began Feb. 21, 1867.

<sup>4</sup> Died Dec. 21, 1936.

<sup>5</sup> In office Dec. 21, 1936, to Jan. 7, 1937.

<sup>6</sup> Died Aug. 21, 1939.

<sup>7</sup> In office Aug. 26, 1939, to 1941.

<sup>8</sup> In office 1943 to Dec. 31, 1945.

<sup>9</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy Jan. 1, 1946. Elected in November 1946.

<sup>10</sup> Died July 13, 1958.

<sup>11</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy July 1958.

<sup>12</sup> Died April 5, 1964.

<sup>13</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy April 10, 1964.

<sup>14</sup> Resigned June 1981.

<sup>15</sup> Appointed June 15, 1981, to complete term of Frank Marsh, who resigned; elected Nov. 2, 1982.

<sup>16</sup> Resigned Sept. 2001.

<sup>17</sup> Appointed Oct. 1, 2001, to complete term of David Heineman, who resigned; elected Nov. 5, 2002. Resigned Jan. 6, 2004.

<sup>18</sup> Appointed Jan. 6, 2004, to complete term of Lorelee Hunt Byrd, who resigned.

## Auditor of Public Accounts

**Office:** Room 2303, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98917, Lincoln, NE 68509-8917, phone (402) 471-2111, fax (402) 471-3301, website — [www.auditors.state.ne.us](http://www.auditors.state.ne.us)

**Auditor of Public Accounts:** Charlie Janssen

**Statutory References:** Nebraska Constitution, Article IV, Section 1; and 84-301

**Salary:** \$85,000

The major duties of the auditor of public accounts are to:

- conduct audits of state agencies, officers, boards, bureaus and commissions
- conduct annual audits of certain political subdivisions and federal funds by

contract

- establish uniform accounting systems for county officers
- establish uniform budgeting for political subdivisions
- register Nebraska school, municipal and public bonds
- set audit standards for auditors conducting audits for state agencies and political subdivisions

- conduct investigations of reports of alleged government waste, fraud and abuse

The auditor is elected to a four-year term and serves as a member of the Board of State Canvassers, State Records Board and Suggestion Award Board.

The office was created by the first territorial Legislature in 1855. The auditor was the general accountant and revenue officer of the territory. The duties have expanded and evolved over the decades as modern accounting theory has been implemented. In 1964, voters approved a constitutional amendment changing the term of the auditor from two years to four years beginning with the 1966 general election.

## Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, 2015

### CHARLIE JANSSEN

**Home Address:** 1234 N. Bristolwood Dr., Fremont, NE 68025

**Office Address:** Room 2303, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98917, Lincoln, NE 68509-8917, phone (402) 471-2111, fax (402) 471-3301, email — [charlie.janssen@nebraska.gov](mailto:charlie.janssen@nebraska.gov)

**Elected Auditor of Public Accounts:** 2014

**Political Party:** Republican

**Biography:** Born Jan. 15, 1971, in Fremont. Graduate of Logan View High School, 1989; Wayne State College (B.S.), 1997. Military service: U.S. Navy (1989-93). Married Ellen Fauss, Sept. 10, 2010. Four children: Charlie, Jr., Betsy Anne, Scarlett Charlize and Dane. Chairman and CEO, RTG Medical. Former: U.S. Navy search and rescue swimmer. **Member:** St. Patrick's Catholic Church; board of directors, Fremont Area United Way; board of directors, Greater Fremont Development Council; senior vice-commander, VFW. **Former member:** Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce; Fremont Veterans Club (president); Fremont City Council.



# Nebraska Auditors of Public Accounts, 1855-2015

## *Territorial*

|                                 |           |                        |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Charles B. Smith.....           | 1855-1858 | Robert C. Jordan ..... | 1858-1861 |
| Samuel L. Campbell <sup>1</sup> |           | William E. Harvey..... | 1861-1865 |
| William E. Moore.....           | 1858      | John Gillespie.....    | 1865-1867 |

## *State*

|                                       |                        |                                        |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| John Gillespie (R) <sup>2</sup> ..... | 1867-1873 <sup>3</sup> | George W. Marsh (R) .....              | 1919-1927              |
| Jefferson B. Weston (R) .....         | 1873-1879              |                                        | 1931-1933              |
| F.W. Liedtke (R) .....                | 1879-1880 <sup>4</sup> | L. B. Johnson (R) .....                | 1927-1931              |
| John Wallichs (R) .....               | 1880-1885 <sup>5</sup> | William B. Price (D) .....             | 1933-1935 <sup>6</sup> |
| H. A. Babcock (R) .....               | 1885-1889              | Fred C. Ayres (D) .....                | 1935-1937 <sup>7</sup> |
| Thomas H. Benton (R) .....            | 1889-1893              | William H. Price (D) .....             | 1937-1939              |
| Eugene Moore (R) .....                | 1893-1897              | Ray C. Johnson (R) .....               | 1939-1971              |
| John F. Cornell (F) .....             | 1897-1901              | Ray A.C. Johnson (R) .....             | 1971-1991              |
| Charles Weston (R) .....              | 1901-1905              | John Breslow (D, R) <sup>8</sup> ..... | 1991-1999              |
| Edward N. Searle Jr. (R) .....        | 1905-1909              | Kate Witek (R, D) <sup>9</sup> .....   | 1999-2007              |
| Silas R. Barton (R) .....             | 1909-1913              | Mike Foley (R) .....                   | 2007-2015              |
| W.B. Howard (R) .....                 | 1913-1915              | Charlie Janssen (R) .....              | 2015                   |
| William H. Smith (D) .....            | 1915-1919              |                                        |                        |

<sup>1</sup> Appointed, but did not qualify.

<sup>2</sup> Political affiliation: R=Republican; D=Democrat; F=Fusion (composed of Populists and Democrats).

<sup>3</sup> Term of office began Feb. 21, 1867.

<sup>4</sup> In office from 1879 to Nov. 11, 1880.

<sup>5</sup> In office from Nov. 12, 1880, to 1885.

<sup>6</sup> Died Aug. 19, 1935.

<sup>7</sup> In office from Aug. 20, 1935, to 1937.

<sup>8</sup> After winning re-election as a Democrat, John Breslow switched to the Republican Party in 1994.

<sup>9</sup> After winning re-election as a Republican, Kate Witek switched to the Democratic Party in 2006.



## Attorney General

### Department of Justice

**Office:** Room 2115, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98920, Lincoln, NE 68509-8920, phone (402) 471-2682, fax (402) 471-3297, TDD (402) 471-2682, toll-free consumer protection hotline (800) 727-6432, website — [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us)

**Attorney General:** Douglas J. Peterson

**Statutory References:** Nebraska Constitution, Article IV, Section 1; and 84-201

**Salary:** \$95,000

**Publications:** Annual report; legal briefs; attorney general opinions;

The attorney general is the state's chief law officer, with duties authorized by the state constitution, statutory enactments and the common law.

The attorney general has been a constitutional officer since 1875. A 1919 legislative act created the Department of Justice to be administered by the attorney general. This department has "general control and supervision of all actions and legal proceedings in which the State of Nebraska may be a party or be interested, and has charge and control of all legal business of all departments and bureaus of the state, or of any office thereof, which requires the services of attorney or counsel in order to protect interests of the state."

The attorney general has the same powers and prerogatives in each county as county attorneys do. Nearly 400 statutes direct the attorney general to perform duties. The attorney general:

- appears in court to defend actions and claims against the state
- consults with and advises county attorneys, upon their request, in criminal and public revenue matters
- writes opinions, without a fee, upon questions of law submitted to the office by the governor, by the head of any executive department, or by any state senator
- prosecutes or defends the state, at the request of the governor or the head of any executive department, in all actions and proceedings, civil or criminal, relating to matters of their departments
- ensures that various state funds receive the money the Legislature has appropriated to them and prosecutes the misuse of such funds
- prepares, when requested by the governor or other executive officers, proper drafts for contracts, forms or other writings for state use
- appears for the state and prosecutes and defends all actions and proceedings, civil or criminal, in the Supreme Court in which the state is interested or a party, and when requested by the governor
- appears for the state by request of the governor or the Legislature to prosecute or defend any action, or conduct any investigation, in which the state is interested or a party, before any court, officer, board, tribunal or commission
- administers the State Tort Claims Act and advises the State Claims Board
- advises and represents state agencies, boards, commissions and officials
- administers a Child Protection Division to assist county attorneys in the preparation of cases involving crimes against children

- investigates complaints of consumer fraud and antitrust activities
- files proceedings to test the constitutionality of any legislative act that in the attorney general's opinion is unconstitutional
- compels any state government agency charged with implementing a legislative act to implement the act if it fails or refuses to do so
- reviews records to determine whether they may be withheld from public inspection pursuant to public record statutes
- consults with the secretary of state to administer election laws
- enforces healthcare professional licensing provisions
- represents the state in criminal appeals and habeas corpus proceedings
- administers a drug and violent crime prosecution unit to assist local prosecutors
- represents the state in workers' compensation and eminent domain proceedings

The attorney general is a member of the Board of State Canvassers, Board of Pardons, State Records Board and Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

In 1964, voters approved a constitutional amendment changing the term of the attorney general from two years to four years beginning with the 1966 general election.

The Department of Justice is organized into five main bureaus: the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Bureau; the Civil Litigation Bureau, which includes the General Litigation and Inmate Litigation sections; the Criminal Bureau, which includes the Criminal Appeals and Prosecution sections; the Legal Services Bureau, which includes the Legal Services and Department of Roads sections; and the Public Protection Bureau, which includes the Consumer Protection Division and the Medicaid Fraud and Patient Abuse Unit.

**Chief Deputy Attorney General:** Dave Bydalek  
**Chief of Staff:** Joshua Shasserre  
**Director of Communications:** Suzanne Gage  
**Office Manager:** Dana Hoffman

| Bureau Chief          | Bureau                                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Jay Bartel.....       | Legal Services                                 |
| John Freudenberg..... | Criminal                                       |
| Justin Lavene.....    | Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources |
| James D. Smith .....  | Civil Litigation                               |
| Abby Stempson .....   | Public Protection                              |

**Solicitor General**  
James D. Smith

## Nebraska Attorney General, 2015



### DOUGLAS J. PETERSON

**Home Address:** 4640 Elkridge Circle, Lincoln, NE 68516

**Office Address:** Room 2115, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98920, Lincoln, NE 68509-8920, phone (402) 471-2682

**Elected Attorney General:** 2014

**Political Party:** Republican

**Biography:** Born April 4, 1959, in Columbus. Graduate of Lincoln East High School, 1977; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1981; Pepperdine University (J.D.), 1985. Married Sandra Miller, July 16, 1983; three children: Clay, Kylie and Grant. Former partner, Keating, O'Gara, Nedved & Peter; partner, Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson & Endacott (1990-2000); assistant attorney general (1988-90); deputy county attorney, Lincoln County (1985-87). **Member:** Lancaster County delegate, Nebraska Republican Party; business committee, Lincoln Berean Church. **Former member:** Commission on Unauthorized Practice of Law, Nebraska State Bar Association; board, Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center (chairman); board, Lincoln City Impact; Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters; state board, Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

## Nebraska Attorneys General, 1867-2015

|                                          |                        |                               |                        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Champion S. Chase (R) <sup>1</sup> ..... | 1867-1869 <sup>2</sup> | Clarence A. Davis (R) .....   | 1919-1923              |
| Seth Robinson (R) .....                  | 1869-1871              | Ora S. Spillman (R) .....     | 1923-1929              |
| George H. Roberts (R) .....              | 1871-1873              | C. A. Sorensen (R) .....      | 1929-1933              |
| .....                                    | 1875-1879              | Paul F. Good (D) .....        | 1933-1935              |
| Joseph R. Webster (R) .....              | 1873-1875              | William H. Wright (D) .....   | 1935-1937              |
| C. J. Dilworth (R) .....                 | 1879-1883              | Richard C. Hunter (D) .....   | 1937-1939              |
| Isaac Powers Jr. (R) .....               | 1883-1885              | Walter R. Johnson (R) .....   | 1939-1949              |
| William Leese (R) .....                  | 1885-1891              | James H. Anderson (R) .....   | 1949-1950 <sup>3</sup> |
| George H. Hastings (R) .....             | 1891-1895              | Clarence S. Beck (R) .....    | 1950-1961 <sup>5</sup> |
| Arthur S. Churchill (R) .....            | 1895-1897              | Harold P. Caldwell (D) .....  | 1951 <sup>6</sup>      |
| Constantine J. Smyth (F) .....           | 1897-1901              | Clarence A.H. Meyer (R) ..... | 1961-1975              |
| Frank N. Prout (R) .....                 | 1901-1905              | Paul L. Douglas (R) .....     | 1975-1984 <sup>3</sup> |
| Norris Brown (R) .....                   | 1905-1907              | Robert M. Spire (R) .....     | 1985-1991 <sup>7</sup> |
| William T. Thompson (R) .....            | 1907-1910 <sup>3</sup> | Don Stenberg (R) .....        | 1991-2003              |
| Arthur F. Mullen (D) .....               | 1910-1911 <sup>4</sup> | Jon Bruning (R) .....         | 2003-2015              |
| Grant G. Martin (R) .....                | 1911-1915              | Douglas J. Peterson (R) ..... | 2015                   |
| Willis E. Reed (D) .....                 | 1915-1919              |                               |                        |

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<sup>1</sup> Political affiliation: R=Republican; D=Democrat; F=Fusion (composed of Populists and Democrats).

<sup>2</sup> Term began Feb. 21, 1867.

<sup>3</sup> Resigned.

<sup>4</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy. In office Oct. 31, 1910, to Jan. 5, 1911.

<sup>5</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy March 1, 1950; elected in November 1950.

<sup>6</sup> Elected for short term. In office approximately 31 hours.

<sup>7</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy. Sworn in March 1, 1985; elected in 1986.